



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

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Senate Bill 1070, An Act Allowing Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and Physician Assistants to Issue Home Health Orders

The Department of Public Health (DPH) supports Senate Bill 1070, which would allow an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) and physician assistant (PA) to issue home health orders. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

Most of Connecticut's licensed home health agencies participate in the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and therefore, they are certified with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). CMS requires recertification for continued participation. Certification inspections are conducted in order to assess compliance with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). DPH, in addition to being the agency responsible for state licensing, is contracted as the agent for CMS to conduct federal certification inspections in Connecticut.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Section 42 CFR part 484, along with Sections [19-13-D72](#), [19-13-D73](#) and [19-13-D74](#) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, were written to only allow a physician to order home health services. The Department has been supportive of an APRN or PA issuing these orders for many years. In fact, when DPH began the home health regulation revision process in 2019, one of the first revisions included allowing APRNs and PAs to order services. Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, CMS issued guidance authorizing this policy change, and subsequently modified Section 42 CFR part 484 to allow an APRN or PA to permanently issue orders for home health services.

Lastly, language allowing APRNs and PAs to order home health services has been included in Section 49 of House Bill 6666, which is the Department's various revisions bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this information. DPH encourages committee members to reach out with any questions.

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